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# WASHINGTON UPDATE

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## FEATURED NEWS

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### **Preliminary Details of House Labor-HHS Bill Released**

On July 7, the House Labor, Health and Human Services and Education (Labor-HHS) Appropriations Subcommittee [passed](#) its fiscal year (FY) 2017 appropriations bill for agencies and programs under its jurisdiction, which include the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), Department of Education, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), among others. While text of the [draft appropriations bill](#) was released to coincide with the Subcommittee markup, the Committee Report is not expected to be released until the bill is [marked up by the full Appropriations Committee](#) on Wednesday (July 13).

[Read on](#) for preliminary details of the bill's proposals for agencies important to the social and behavioral sciences, and check back later in the week for a full analysis of the bill and report language.

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## COSSA IN ACTION

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### COSSA and CJRA Host "Ask a Criminologist" Congressional Roundtable on Increasing Homicide Rates

On July 7, COSSA and the [Crime and Justice Research Alliance \(CJRA\)](#) hosted the first in a series of "Ask a Criminologist" Congressional Roundtables. This briefing highlighted the work of Dr. Richard Rosenfeld of the University of Missouri, St. Louis on possible research directions to identify the causes of the sharp increase in U.S. homicides in 2015 (slides available [here](#)). Dr. Rosenfeld presented to over 130 attendees and was joined by CJRA chair Dr. Nancy La Vigne and *Washington Post* crime reporter Tom Jackman for a panel discussion and audience questions.



The audience of Capitol Hill staff and community stakeholders asked questions about the effectiveness and prevalence of community policing, the role of the federal government in both decreasing the homicide rate and keeping track of the homicides that occur, and how confidence can be restored in police departments. Attendees also inquired as to the next steps in research on the homicide increase, including whether demographics, changing gun laws, or comparisons of cities should be included in the analysis.

More information about the Crime & Justice Research Alliance can be found [here](#). Rosenfeld's National Institute of Justice-commissioned research can be found [here](#).

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## CONGRESSIONAL NEWS

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### Tri-Caucus Introduces 2016 Health Equity and Accountability Act

On June 15, led by Representative Robin Kelly (D-IL), members of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC) introduced the *Health Equity and Accountability Act* (HEAA) ([H.R. 5475](#)). The groups, also known as the Congressional Tri-Caucus, have introduced versions of the legislation since 2007, which has served to inform other health-related legislation considered by the Congress, including the *Affordable Care Act* (ACA).

Introducing the bill, Rep. Kelly, chair of the CBC Health Braintrust, noted that HEAA "is a reminder that there is much work to be done to improve health outcomes in minority populations." She was joined at the bill's roll out by CAPAC chair Judy Chu (D-CA), CAPAC Health Taskforce co-chair Barbara Lee (D-CA), CHC Health Task Force chair Michelle Lujan Grisham (D-NM), CHC chair Linda Sanchez (D-CA), and CBC chair G.K. Butterfield (D-NC). The bill currently has [18 co-sponsors](#).

Among other things, if enacted, the bill would direct the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to support research addressing minority health and health disparities. Issues and topics addressed by the 800-page bill include: data collection and reporting; workforce diversity; mental health; healthcare outcomes for women, children and families; "high impact minority diseases" (cancer, cardiovascular disease, chronic disease, HIV/AIDS, diabetes, lung disease); health information technology; accountability and evaluation; and social determinants of health, the built environment, and environmental justice.

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# FEDERAL AGENCY & ADMINISTRATION NEWS

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## NSF Seeking Division Director for Undergraduate Education

The National Science Foundation (NSF) announced a nationwide search to fill the position of Division Director for the [Division of Undergraduate Education](#) (DUE) in the [Directorate for Education and Human Resources](#) (EHR). The selected candidate will lead the activities of the Division, assess its needs and trends, and collaborate with other senior leaders across the directorates of NSF. Qualified candidates should possess a record of leadership and achievement in academe, government, or not-for-profit research and education endeavors, specifically directed at the enhancement of undergraduate STEM research. Additionally, qualified candidates must be experienced in technical, financial, and administrative management. Details can be found [here](#).

## PCORI Announces Commitments in Support for Cancer Moonshot Initiative

The Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) has released its plans to support the Vice President's [Cancer Moonshot Initiative](#). PCORI's [National Patient-Centered Clinical Research Network](#) (PCORnet) has committed to (1) enhancing its national data network to facilitate large-scale cancer research; (2) creating data tables that describe characteristics of patient cohorts treated for the most common types of cancer; and (3) establishing a Cancer Collaborative Research Group within PCORnet to assist in identifying research questions, developing approaches to integrate big data in cancer prevention and treatment, and reducing disparities. More about PCORI's support for the Cancer Moonshot is available on its [website](#).

## Video Shares Insights into NIH Grant Application and Peer Review Process

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) [Center for Scientific Review](#) (CSR) recently posted a [video](#) compiling insights from individuals who have participated in the NIH's peer review process, including peer reviewers, study section chairs, and NIH staff. The video is designed to guide applicants in planning and writing a competitive grant application, including writing the summary and specific aims sections of the application; explaining why the research is essential; and the importance of explaining proposed techniques, among other suggestions. The video is part of CSR's [Insider's Guide to Peer Review for Applicants](#).

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## PUBLICATIONS & COMMUNITY EVENTS

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### Academies Report Recommends Abandoning Proposed Changes to the Common Rule

On June 29, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine released part 2 of its report [Optimizing the Nation's Investment in Academic Research](#) (the first part had been released in 2015). Of particular significance to the social and behavioral science research community is a chapter within the report on the "Ethical, Legal, and Regulatory Framework for Human Subjects Research." In it, the panel issues a stinging criticism of the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) September 2015 [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#) (NPRM) on the Federal Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects. The chapter argues that the NPRM should be abandoned and that it "would impose additional burdens that could be detrimental to important areas of research."

[Read on](#) for more details.

## **National Academies Seeks New DBASSE Director**

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine is searching for its next Executive Director of the Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education (DBASSE). The DBASSE Executive Director is responsible for executing the vision and strategy for division activities, directing the financial and budgetary efforts of both the Division and specific projects, as well as developing and maintaining relationships with government agencies, professional organizations, and academics. Substantial knowledge in the fields of social science, behavioral science, and/or education, a Ph.D. or Masters' degree, and a minimum of 16 years of professional experience are required. More information can be found [here](#).

## **CNSF Releases Statement on *American Innovation and Competitiveness Act***

The [Coalition for National Science Funding](#) (CNSF), of which COSSA is an active member, released a [statement](#) on July 6 regarding the *American Innovation and Competitiveness Act* ([S. 3084](#)). This legislation, which was approved by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on June 29, includes language authorizing the National Science Foundation (NSF); check out [COSSA's analysis](#) for full details. The CNSF statement highlights the important role of the NSF in the U.S. innovation and research enterprise and requests that the Senate extend the length of NSF's authorization past the two years currently provided in the bill. CNSF also thanks the Senate for reaffirming the NSF's peer review process, addressing the importance of broadening participation in science, and calling for changes to regulations to all researchers to spend less time attending to administrative requirements. The statement can be read [here](#). A webcast of the Senate Commerce Committee markup of the bill is available [here](#).

## **Congressional Briefing Explores Groundbreaking Research on the Health of the Aging**

On June 30, the [National Institute on Aging](#) (NIA) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in collaboration with Friends of the National Institute on Aging (FoNIA) hosted an educational briefing on Capitol Hill on "Advancing the health of an aging population: Groundbreaking Research Supported by the NIA." [FoNIA](#) is a broad-based coalition of aging, disease, research, and patient groups that supports the mission of the Institute; COSSA is a longstanding member. The briefing continues the series of annual FoNIA Congressional briefings designed to share the latest aging research with Congress and its staff. Presenters included NIA Director Richard Hodes; NIA Deputy Director Marie A. Bernard; Corey T. McMillan, University of Pennsylvania; and Peter M. Abadir, the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

[Read on](#) for more details.

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## **FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- NSF: Dear Colleague Letter: Change Makers ([NSF-16-109](#))
- NIH: [Click here for recent NIH funding opportunities.](#)

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## **COSSA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**

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# AERA Briefing Examines the Supreme Court Decision in *Fisher v. UT Austin*

On June 28, the American Educational Research Association (AERA) held a [briefing](#), *After Fisher: What the Supreme Court's Ruling Means for Students, Colleges, and the Country*, to discuss the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Fisher v. University of Texas, Austin* (Fisher II). A distinguished panel of civil rights and education research experts focused on the impact of the Fisher II ruling and its implications for ensuring quality education for all students. The Court's June 23 ruling reaffirmed "the compelling governmental interest in promoting student-body diversity in higher education and upheld the constitutionality of the University's race-conscious admissions policy under the narrow tailoring requirement of strict scrutiny." According to Angelo Ancheta, Counsel of Record for AERA et al. Amicus Curiae Brief, the Court's ruling is "fully supported by the scientific literature on diversity." This includes research on the educational benefits of diversity, the harms of racial isolation, critical mass, intra-racial diversity, and research refuting claims that race-conscious admissions policies harm minority students.

[Read on](#) for more details.

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## EVENTS CALENDAR

- [Joint Statistical Meetings](#), Chicago, IL, July 30-August 4, 2016
- [American Psychological Association Annual Convention](#), Denver, CO, August 4-7, 2016
- [Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting](#), Toronto, Canada, August 16-19, 2016
- [American Sociological Association Annual Meeting](#), Seattle, WA, August 20-23, 2016
- [American Political Science Association Annual Meeting & Exhibition](#), Philadelphia, PA, September 1-4, 2016
- [Economic History Association Annual Meeting](#), Boulder, CO, September 16-18, 2016

A list of COSSA members' annual meetings and other events can be found on the COSSA [webpage](#).

COSSA members who have an upcoming event they would like to see listed in the Events Calendar and on our website should send an email to [jmilton@coffa.org](mailto:jmilton@coffa.org).

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### SAVE THE DATE!

**COSSA's 2017 Annual Meeting & Social Science Advocacy Day will take place  
March 29-30, 2017 in Washington, DC**

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## Consortium of Social Science Associations Members

### Governing Associations

American Anthropological Association  
American Association for Public Opinion Research  
American Economic Association  
American Educational Research Association  
American Political Science Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Society of Criminology  
American Sociological Association  
American Statistical Association  
Association of American Law Schools  
Law and Society Association  
Linguistic Society of America  
Midwest Political Science Association

### Colleges and Universities

Arizona State University  
Boston University  
Brown University  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Clark University  
Columbia University  
Cornell University  
Duke University  
Fielding Graduate University  
George Mason University  
Georgetown University  
Harvard University

National Communication Association  
Population Association of America  
Society for Personality and Social Psychology  
Society for Research in Child Development

### Membership Organizations

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences  
American Association of Geographers  
American Evaluation Association  
American Historical Association  
American Psychosomatic Society  
Association for Asian Studies  
Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies  
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management  
Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations  
Association of Research Libraries  
Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences  
Council on Social Work Education  
Economic History Association  
History of Science Society  
Midwest Sociological Society  
National Association of Social Workers  
North American Regional Science Council  
Rural Sociological Society  
Social Science History Association  
Society for Research on Adolescence  
Society for Social Work and Research  
Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues  
Society of Behavioral Medicine  
Southern Political Science Association  
Southern Sociological Society  
Southwestern Social Science Association

### Centers and Institutes

American Academy of Arts and Sciences  
American Academy of Political and Social Science  
American Council of Learned Societies  
American Institutes for Research  
Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences  
Cornell Institute for Social and Economic Research  
Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan  
Institute for Social Science Research,  
University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
Institute for Women's Policy Research  
NORC at the University of Chicago  
Owens Institute for Behavioral Research, University of Georgia  
RTI International  
Social Science Research Council

Howard University  
Indiana University  
John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY  
Johns Hopkins University  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Michigan State University  
New York University  
North Carolina State University  
Northwestern University  
Pennsylvania State University  
Princeton University  
Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey  
Stanford University  
Texas A&M University  
The George Washington University  
The Ohio State University  
University of California, Berkeley  
University of California, Irvine  
University of California, Los Angeles  
University of California, Santa Barbara  
University of Chicago  
University of Colorado, Boulder  
University of Illinois  
University of Iowa  
University of Maryland  
University of Michigan  
University of Minnesota  
University of Missouri  
University of Nebraska, Lincoln  
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill  
University of Oklahoma  
University of Pennsylvania  
University of South Carolina  
University of Texas, Austin  
University of Texas, San Antonio  
University of Virginia  
University of Washington  
University of Wisconsin, Madison  
Virginia Tech  
West Virginia University  
Yale University

## COSSA

**Executive Director:** Wendy A. Naus

**Deputy Director:** Angela L. Sharpe

**Assistant Director for Public Affairs:** Julia Milton

**Government Relations Associate:** Camille Hosman

Address all inquiries to COSSA at [newsletter@cossa.org](mailto:newsletter@cossa.org). Telephone: (202) 842-3525

*The Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) is a nonprofit advocacy organization working to promote sustainable federal funding for social and behavioral science research and federal policies that positively impact the conduct of research.*

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